

**USHC-10** The student will demonstrate an understanding of developments in foreign policy and economics that have taken place in the US since the fall of the Soviet Union and its satellite states in 1992.

**USHC-10.1** Summarize key events in US foreign policy from the end of the Reagan administration to present, including changes to the Middle East, impact of US involvement in the Persian Gulf, and the rise of global terrorism. (H, P G)

**Taxonomy Level:** 2B Understand/ Conceptual Knowledge

**Previous/future knowledge:**

In 5<sup>th</sup> grade, students compared the position of the United States on the world stage following World War I, World War II, and the collapse of the communist states. (5-6.6) They used a map to identify the regions of United States' political involvement since the fall of the communist states, including places in the Middle East, Central America, the Caribbean, Africa, the Balkans in Europe, and Asia (5-6.1). Students identified examples of cultural exchange between the United States and other countries that illustrate the importance of popular culture and the influence of American popular culture in other places in the world, including music, fashion, food, and movies (5-6.4). They summarized the changes that have taken place in United States foreign policy since 1992, including the globalization of trade and the war on terrorism (5-6.5).

In 7<sup>th</sup> grade, students illustrated on a timeline the events that contributed to the collapse of the Soviet Union and other communist governments in Europe, including economic failures and the emergence of new leaders (7-7.1). They compared the social, economic, and political opportunities for women in various nations and societies around the world, including those in developing and industrialized nations and within societies dominated by particular religions (7-7.5). Students explained the impact of increasing global economic interdependence in the late twentieth century and the early twenty-first century, including the significance of global communication, labor demands, and migration; the European Economic Community (EEC) and other trade agreements; and the oil crisis of the 1970s (7-7.6). They summarized the dangers to the natural environment that are posed by population growth, urbanization, and industrialization (7-7.7).

In Global Studies, students summarized the impact of economic and political interdependence on the world. Problems that faced were efforts to control population growth, economic imbalance and social inequality and efforts to address them, the significance of the world economy for different nations, and the influence of terrorist movements on politics in various countries (GS-6.4).

**It is essential for the students to know:**

As a result of the end of the Cold War, the United States became the world's only superpower. Consequently, the United States not only had a greater responsibility for maintaining world peace in the face of regional conflicts, but in the process also aroused resentment.

The United States continued to exercise leadership in the **Middle East**, an area of vital concern because of its vast oil resources and American dependence on foreign oil. President George H.W. Bush led the world in the resolution of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in the early 1990s. The first **Persian Gulf War** had the support of many of the other nations of the world and resulted in a quick military victory which restored the independence of Kuwait. The prompt withdrawal of U.S. military forces from Iraq did not alter the balance of power in the Middle East, but the presence of United States troops in bases in Saudi Arabia aroused the enmity of religious fanatics. These joined with other fanatic religious fundamentalists groups, particularly the Taliban that had driven the Soviets out of Afghanistan, to form **terrorist** groups such as al Qaeda.

During the Clinton administration, the United States continued to support Israel while at the same time working diplomatically to resolve the problems of the Middle East as related to the occupied territories and the rights of the Palestinian people. This course of action resulted in some initial success until hard-liners in Israel and in the PLO gained power and negotiations stalled. The United States also brokered a peace in Northern Ireland and forced the military to give up power to the democratically elected president in Haiti. The US humanitarian efforts in Somalia were undermined by the 'Black Hawk Down' incident and the US withdrew its forces from the area. The United States, with the support of NATO, intervened in the civil war in the Balkans, bringing ethnic cleansing there to a halt and helping to negotiate a peace. The United States continued to monitor and control the regime of Saddam Hussein in Iraq, the Taliban in Afghanistan and a growing terrorist threat. Attacks on the World Trade Center, the *USS Cole*, and United States' embassies in Africa signaled **the rise of global terrorism**.

In 2001, terrorists flew airplanes into the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Another attack was thwarted by passengers and the airplane crashed in Pennsylvania. The United States linked the attack to al Qaeda and, with the support of the world, invaded their stronghold in Afghanistan, overthrowing the Taliban government that gave the terrorist organization sanctuary there. The United States did not capture the al Qaeda leader, Osama bin Laden, who remains at large.

The administration of George W. Bush believed that there was evidence that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was in possession of weapons of mass destruction. The United States, with the help of Great Britain and a few other countries, invaded Iraq to overthrow Hussein and bring democracy to that country. No weapons of mass destruction were found. Saddam Hussein was captured by United States forces, tried by an Iraqi Special Tribunal for crimes against humanity and executed. Although the military action resulted in the overthrow of the Sunni-dominated government of Hussein and the election of a new more democratic government, it did not result in peace. United States forces continue to be under attack by militias that support the various religious factions in Iraq. The Middle East continues to be in turmoil.

**It is not essential for the students to know:**

It is not essential to remember the changes brought about by *perestroika* and *glasnost* in the former Soviet Union, the conflicts in China at Tiananmen Square, nor the details of the Kosovo Conflict. It is not essential for students to understand the details of the many negotiations between the Israel and the PLO or details of the controversy surrounding the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

**Assessment guidelines:**

Appropriate assessments would require students to **explain** why the Middle East is an area of vital importance for the United States. They should be able to **compare** the first and second Gulf Wars, and to **explain** the ongoing conflict between Israel and her neighbors and the reasons for such conflict. They should be able to **interpret** maps, graphs and political cartoons and **infer** their relationship to information about the time period.